

East bloc joins NATO in Bosnia

By PAUL AMES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Polish commandos, Czech armored units and soldiers from eight other former East bloc nations will work alongside NATO allies in Bosnia.

Their leaders hope a partnership forged in the Balkan war zone will prove that they are ready to join the Western alliance.

"We want to participate because we feel this is the way we should behave in the future as an alliance country," said Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec.

Joint action in Bosnia could count for more than all the declarations about NATO's plans to one day take on former foes as new members, Zieleniec said.

"Words are important, but much more important is to show the will to do something," he said

on the sidelines of a meeting of foreign ministers from the 16 NATO allies and 27 former East bloc or neutral nations Tuesday.

Central European nations, led by the Czechs, Poles and Hungarians, have long been pressing for NATO to open its doors. But the Bosnia mission, NATO's biggest ever military operation, has pushed the alliance enlargement plan into the background.

Allied foreign ministers said Monday they were still committed to enlargement and would launch an "intensive dialogue" with prospective candidates. But they said it would be at least a year before the alliance even begins discussions on which nations may be allowed in and when.

In the meantime, the easterners believe that placing their troops shoulder to shoulder with NATO soldiers will put them in a stronger position when the alli-

ance does eventually get around to choosing who it will let in.

"We wish . . . to share the role and risks of this alliance," Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys told the meeting here.

Lithuania is offering a platoon of 30 soldiers from its tiny army, to serve alongside a Danish contingent. Latvia and Estonia are also sending small units.

Other former East bloc nations are making much larger contributions.

Poland is sending 900 commandos to join the U.S.-led division in northwestern Bosnia. The Czechs are offering an 800-strong mechanized battalion to serve with the British in western Bosnia.

Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine are expected to provide engineers, transport units, field hospitals and other specialized troops. Russia has offered 1,500 to 2,000 soldiers.

NANUET, N.Y. — At age 74, Jean Savage was in a wheelchair, with spine curvature, severe arthritis and possibly lung cancer.

Three weeks ago her husband, Richard, 88, allegedly shot her to death. He then turned the gun on himself but survived.

Savage was indicted Tuesday on a charge of second-degree murder.

If convicted, Savage would face a maximum prison term of 25 years to life — and would become the oldest man sentenced to prison in New York in recent years.

Savage will plead not guilty at his arraignment today, said his lawyer, Harry Edelstein.

Savage was working three days a week. At home, he cooked and cleaned. He car-

ago.

The increasingly frantic pace of life in the '90s and work pressures are responsible, the National Sleep Foundation said Tuesday.

One-third of the respondents said they had fallen asleep while driving. Of that group, 10 percent had a sleep-related accident. Forty-nine percent reported some sleeping difficulty, compared to 36 percent in the 1991 study.

The survey said 35 percent of the population have occasional insomnia, 12 percent have chronic insomnia and more women (52 percent) report sleep problems than men (45 percent).

Gallup conducted its survey in telephone interviews with 1,027 adults during October. Its margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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